

MEMO

DATE: February 3, 2005

TO: Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Alan Thompson, Senior Regional Planner, (213) 236-1940, thompson@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Energy Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan, Policy Gap

SUMMARY:

SCAG staff, under the direction of the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force, is completing a new draft Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) during the current fiscal year. The Energy and Environment Committee has purview over several topics within the plan, including energy. The Task Force has completed its discussions for the Energy Chapter, and made a report to this Committee. Notably, the Task Force identified a deficiency in regional policy related to energy, in that the region does not have a policy on energy generation, and recommended that the Committee consider new policy deliberations to address this gap.

BACKGROUND:

On October 7, 2004, the Regional Council approved the concept and approach for the completion of a new Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). In brief, staff will present a draft RCP for the Regional Council's consideration at the end of the current fiscal year. Staff's efforts in completing the plan are directed by the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force, comprised of 10 members representing each of the three policy committees. The Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD) has purview over the plan as a whole, but the EEC has purview over topics related to the environment and natural resources.

The purpose of the plan is to consolidate and translate the existing body of SCAG policies, and provide practical direction on implementation for outside entities. To that end, the Task Force has reviewed current energy policies compiled by staff. The Task Force found that the region does not have an effective or comprehensive policy related to energy generation. Such a policy should cover whether the region should pursue new generating capacity, and if so, where and what type of generation should take place.

The RCP approaches and concepts call for the Task Force, when it identifies policy deficiencies, to report to the appropriate policy committee. New policy deliberations can then be undertaken at the policy committee's discretion. Should a new policy be created during the current fiscal year, it will be incorporated into the RCP.

The lack of an energy generation policy is agendized at this time for discussion. Staff is prepared to pursue any follow up activities as directed by the Committee.